

REMARKS

At the time of the Advisory Action dated June 14, 2010, claims 1-5, 7-9, and 11-15, and 17-19 were pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 11, 12, and 17-19 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b).

In this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, and claim 16 canceled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found on, for example, page 9, line 26 to page 10, line 10 of the specification.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, and 13-15 are now active in this application, of which claim 1 is independent. A Request for Continued Examiner is filed concurrently with this Amendment.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese patent application publication No. 09-296214 (hereinafter “JP’214”) in view of Grell et al (U.S. Patent No. US 6,682,227, hereinafter “Grell”).

The JP’214 and Grell, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a manufacturing method including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Specifically, the applied combination of the references does not teach, among other things, “the molds include an upper mold and a lower mold, and a heat capacity of one of the upper mold and the lower mold is at least 90 times as great as that of the thin component,” as recited in claim 1.

According to Applicants’ study of the JP’214 and Grell, the references are silent on molds which are now included in claim 1.

Pitolaj (U.S. Patent No. 4,913,951), cited in the Advisory Action, discloses molds 68. However, this reference is also silent on, among other things, “a heat capacity of one of the upper mold and the lower mold is at least 90 times as great as that of the thin component,” as claimed.

The claimed mold may allow the quenching process to be performed without any cooling means for introducing a medium such as water, oil, or air into the molds and suppressing the temperature increase of the molds.

Based on the foregoing, the JP 214, Grell, and Pitolaj, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a manufacturing method including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Claims 2-5, 7-9, and 13-15 are also patentably distinguishable over the JP 214, Grell, and Pitolaj at least because these claims respectively include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and favorable consideration thereof.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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